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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SPOT COMMENTARY

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Kostunica Claims Victory

The opposition candidate and his supporters are euphoric over election results while the Milosevic regime appears disorganized and in disarray. Kostunica claims to have won 54 percent to less than 34 percent for Milosevic. Kostunica, however, also says he is willing to go to a second round against Milosevic, *clearly confident he would once again emerge victorious.*

- Meanwhile, the official media claims Milosevic is ahead 44 percent to 41 for Kostunica—even spokesmen for the party of Mira Markovic, Milosevic's hard-line wife, have dropped earlier claims that Milosevic is winning an absolute majority of the votes.
- Independent media outlets claim the regime is blocking several opposition Internet web sites.
- British Foreign Secretary Cook said this morning that Milosevic has been beaten by a "massive" majority and is a "beaten, broken-backed" President.

The Federal Election Commission suspended the vote count last night and evicted opposition monitors. Press reports claim it resumed work about an hour ago, but it was not clear whether the opposition monitors were back at their stations. *The regime may attempt to delay announcing official results until it can agree on a course of action.*

The opposition also is faring well in local elections, especially in southern Serbia, where opposition to Milosevic has been growing since the Kosovo Air Campaign. No results have yet been reported in Serbia's three largest cities, Belgrade, Nis, and Novi Sad.

- Press reports indicate sporadic violence and small confrontations between protesters and police, but so far demonstrations remain orderly and fairly small, while police continue to show relative restraint toward opposition crowds.
- The parliamentary elections have been virtually ignored by both sides and

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officials so far have not projected the makeup of the new legislature. [redacted]

There are no indications of movements by police or troops that would indicate a regime intention to declare a state of emergency or martial law.



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